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Remarks

Reconsideration of the above referenced application in view of the previous amendment and enclosed remarks is requested. Applicant notes with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-7, 14-16 and 22-24 are allowed. Claims 25-28 are added. Pending Claims 1-5 and 7-28 remain in the application. Claims 8, 11, 17 and 20 are amended.

ARGUMENT

Claims 8-13 and 17-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,493,751 to Tate et al. (hereafter Tate et al.) in view of Western Digital. This rejection is respectfully traversed and Claims 8-13 and 17-21 are believed allowable based on the foregoing amendments and following discussion.

Tate et al. teach a method for managing network configurations in a window-based operating system. A mobile configuration manager is provided for managing network configuration parameters. (Abstract) In contrast, Applicant's claimed invention (specifically, Claim 8) requires that a second signal represents a system configuration setting for a first computer system, where the configuration setting determining various settings for the operation of the first computing system, wherein the configuration setting comprises setup information to be applied prior to or during the booting of a the first computing system to control a plurality of computer system resources of the first computer system. Thus, application of Tate et al. to Western Digital will merely result in a method to locate network configuration parameters and download them from the Internet.

Applicant uses the common definition of system configuration signals as described in the Background section as "signals that may determine various settings for the operation of the computer system. For example, configuration signals may determine whether various input/output (I/O) ports comprised by the system are enabled, and I/O addresses for these ports. Configuration signals may determine other computer system settings as well. Claim 8 requires that the configuration setting comprises setup information to be applied prior to or during the

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booting of a the first computing system to control a plurality of computer system resources of the first computer system. Tate et al. teach network configuration which may be applied during runtime, as indicated by a discussion that menu windows (under operating system control) are typically used to enter the network configurations. In contrast, Applicant's invention requires that the configuration settings are *setup configuration settings* to be applied prior to, or during boot. Tate et al. do not teach or suggest setup configuration settings, but only network configuration settings. It will be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art that system setup configuration may be distinguished from network configuration. Network configuration settings do not determine various settings of the operation of the computing system, but rather they define the operation of the network.

Similarly, Claims 11, 17 and 20 recite that the configuration setting comprises setup information to be applied prior to or during the booting of a the computing system to control a plurality of computer system resources of the computer system. Thus, Claims 8, 11, 17, 20 and their progeny are believed allowable. All claims remaining in the application are now allowable.

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**CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing, Claims 1-5 and 7-28 are all in condition for allowance. If the Examiner has any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 633-6845. Early issuance of Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. Please charge any shortage of fees in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account Deposit Account 02-2666 and please credit any excess fees to such account.

Respectfully submitted,

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